



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

**COLORADO BULLETIN NO.:** CO-300-06-01

October 20, 2005

**SUBJECT:** LTP - Operation and Maintenance Agreements for EQIP

**TO:** All Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Offices

**PURPOSE:** To provide updated guidance regarding Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Agreement policy for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**EXPIRATION DATE:** September 30, 2006

In compliance with the EQIP final rule (Federal Register/Vol. 68, No. 104, P 1466.21 (1), all 2006 EQIP contracts will include an O&M plan that will be followed by participants according to CCC 1200 Appendix part 3 A paragraph #4. As stated in the EQIP manual (515.111 a), the O&M plans will include management practices needed to support proper operation of financially assisted structural practices.

Management practices that are needed to support financially assisted structural practices and are **not paid for in the contract** will be included in the O&M plan. Examples of management needed to support structural practices include: Prescribed Grazing for fences and watering facilities applied to facilitate a grazing system; Irrigation Water Management for Pipelines, Irrigation Systems, Water Control Structures, etc. that are applied to improve irrigation systems. Forage Harvest Management for practices applied to improve pasture and hayland such as land leveling. Management practices will be maintained for the lifespan of the structural practices applied.

All structural practice Operation and Maintenance requirements must also be spelled out in the plan. Each Area is encouraged to develop template O&M plans that can be filled in or cut and pasted to address the needs for each individual contract. Job sheets that accompany the appropriate specifications may also be used. It is important that whatever procedure is used the O & M plan is clearly identified and reviewed with the participant before the contract is signed. Area 1 has developed some draft O&M templates. If other Areas would like to utilize the drafts as a starting point to develop their O&M plan procedure, contact the Resource Conservationist Programs (RC -P) in the State office.

The templates are in draft form and should be modified to be current with the latest Standards and Specifications. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the RC-P in the State office.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allen Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allen" and the last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

ALLEN GREEN  
State Conservationist

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